

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 8-10 and 15 have been amended. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. New claims 20-22 have been added. Claims 1-5 and 8-22 are now pending in the application. The rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) - Watanabe

Claims 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Watanabe (Japanese Patent Number 05-204483). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 15, Applicant's claimed invention relates to an information terminal including an information apparatus and a battery pack. The information terminal comprises a communication section, an apparatus memory, a battery memory, and a switch. The apparatus memory stores a first password, and the battery memory stores a second password. The switch enables electric power to a device load supplied by a power supply, on the basis of a control signal. The communication section generates the control signal through a comparison of the first password with the second password, thereby enabling electric power to the device load when the first password is identical to the second password, and disables electric power to the device load when the first password differs from the second password. Further, an input device of the device load performs setting or changing the first and/or second passwords via the communication section.

Turning to the cited art, Watanabe discloses a portable computer shown in Figure 1, in which theft and fraudulent use is prevented, by comparatively collating in a code-discriminating

section (29c), a key code set in a computer main body (PCMD) and a key code set in a code-setting section (29b) of a power source adapter (29), to determine whether or not the computer is used legally (see Figure 3). Figure 2 also depicts the power source device (1) in more detail, and includes a switch (6) to control a supply of power and a switch circuit (33) which controls supply/shut off of power source output based on the legality of key code.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Watanabe of an input device of a device load which “performs setting or changing said first and/or second passwords via said communication section,” as Applicant claims. Watanabe only discloses that “the power source 1 having the power source control processor 2 is provided with a key code setting mechanism comprising components 40 and 41” (paragraph [0016]), and that “the power source adapter 29, as shown in Figure 3, is provided with a code-setting section 29b and a code-discriminating section 29c for realizing a power source control mechanism by code matching” (paragraph [0019]). Therefore, Watanabe’s portable computer sets a key code for the power source device (1) by one mechanism (components 40 and 41) provided at the power source device (1), while a key code for the power source adapter (29) is set by another different mechanism (code-setting section 29b) provided at the power source adapter (29). Because the key codes that are set in Watanabe are each set locally at the power source adapter (29) and at the power source device (1) respectively, there is no input device in Watanabe which performs setting or changing first and/or second passwords via said communication section, as Applicant claims. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicant’s claim 15 is patentable over Watanabe. Applicant’s claims 16-19 are dependent claims including all of the

elements of independent claim 15, which, as established above, distinguishes over Watanabe. Therefore, claims 16-19 are patentably distinguished over Watanabe for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Watanabe

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant's claimed invention relates to an information terminal including an information apparatus and a battery pack. The information apparatus comprises a device load having an input device, a first switch, an apparatus memory for storing a first password, a communication section for communicating with the apparatus memory, the input device and the battery pack, and a second switch. The battery pack comprises a battery and a battery memory for storing a second password. When the first switch is turned on, the communication section compares the first password stored in the apparatus memory with the second password stored in the battery memory. When the first password is identical to the second password as a result of the comparison, the communication section turns on the second switch so as to supply electric power from the battery pack to the device load. When the passwords differ, the communication section turns off the second switch. Further, the input device performs setting or changing the first and/or second passwords via the communication section.

Turning to the cited art, Watanabe discloses a portable computer shown in Figure 1 and as described above. However, as discussed above, there is no teaching or suggestion in Watanabe of an input device of a device load which “performs setting or changing said first and/or second passwords via said communication section,” as Applicant claims. Watanabe has two separate key code setting mechanisms (40 and 41) and (29b), and first and/or second passwords are also not taught or suggested by Watanabe to be set or changed via a communication section. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicant’s claim 1 is patentable over Watanabe. Applicant’s claims 3, 5, 11, 12 and 13 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 1, which, as established above, distinguishes over Watanabe. Therefore, claims 3, 5, 11, 12 and 13 are patentably distinguished over Watanabe for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 2, Applicant’s claimed invention relates to an information terminal comprising an information apparatus and a battery pack. The information apparatus comprises a device load having an input device, a first switch, an apparatus memory, a communication section, a load power supply, and a second switch. The battery pack comprises a battery and a battery memory. When the first switch is turned on, the communication section compares the first password stored in the apparatus memory with a second password stored in the battery memory. When the first password is identical to the second password as a result of the comparison, the communication section turns on the second switch so as to supply electric power

from the load power supply to the device load. When the passwords differ, the communication section turns off the second switch. Further, the input device performs setting or changing the first and/or second passwords via the communication section.

As discussed above, there is no teaching in Watanabe of an input device of a device load which “performs setting or changing said first and/or second passwords via said communication section,” as Applicant claims. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicant’s claim 2 is patentable over Watanabe. Applicant’s claims 4, 8-10 and 14 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claim 2, which, as established above, distinguishes over Watanabe. Therefore, claims 4, 8-10 and 14 are patentably distinguished over Watanabe for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims

New claims 20-22 have been added to provide more varied protection for the present invention¹. Claims 20- 22 are allowable based on at least their dependencies, as well as for their additionally recited features. That is, claims 20-22 recite that “said input device sets or changes said first and second passwords by inputting said first password through said communication section and said apparatus memory, and inputting said second password through said communication section and said battery memory, wherein said first password and said second password are identical.” The cited references fail to teach or suggest an input device which sets

¹ Support for these claims is found in the specification at least on page 7, line 27 to page 8, line 4.

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or changes the first and second passwords by inputting the passwords through the respective components as Applicant has claimed, and that the first and second passwords are identical.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

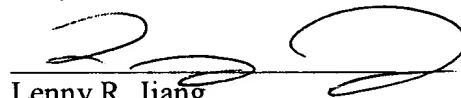
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Respectfully submitted,


Lenny R. Jiang
Registration No. 52,432